

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-0968V

Filed: October 6, 2015

UNPUBLISHED

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PAULA NILSEN,

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Petitioner,

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH

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AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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Respondent.

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Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Tetanus Diphtheria ("Td") Shoulder  
Vaccine; Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration SIRVA; Special  
Processing Unit ("SPU")

*Danielle Anne Strait, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Washington, DC, for petitioner.  
Debra A. Filteau Begley, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On October 8, 2015, Paula Nilsen ("petitioner") filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> [the "Vaccine Act" or "Program"]. Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury which was caused by a tetanus diphtheria ("Td") vaccine she received on March 14, 2013. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On January 9, 2015, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation. On October 6, 2015, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ["Proffer"] stating that petitioner should be awarded \$128,516.11.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Proffer at 1. According to respondent's Proffer, petitioner agrees to the proposed award of compensation.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, the undersigned awards petitioner:

- a) **A lump sum of \$125,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Paula Nilsen, and**
- b) **A lump sum of \$3,516.11, in the form of a check payable to petitioner and Optum, in satisfaction of a Medicaid lien from the State of Minnesota. Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to Optum.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 300aa-15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**  
Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

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**PAULA NILSEN,**

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Petitioner,

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**No. 14-968V**

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**CHIEF SPECIAL MASTER**

v.

\*

**NORA BETH DORSEY**

\*

**SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,**

\*

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\*

Respondent.

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**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

**I. Items of Compensation**

For purposes of this proffer, the term "vaccine-related" is as described in Respondent's Rule 4(c) Report, filed on January 8, 2015, conceding entitlement in this case. Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$128,516.11. This represents all elements of competition to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) for her vaccine-related injury.<sup>1</sup> Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through lump sum payments described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:

- a) A lump sum of \$125,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Paula Nilsen, and

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

- b) A lump sum of \$3,516.11 in the form of a check made payable to petitioner and Optum, in satisfaction of a Medicaid lien from the State of Minnesota. Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to Optum.

These amounts account for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner would be entitled. Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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RUPA BHATTACHARYYA  
Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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Deputy Director  
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